

nominations of Lael Brainard to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and Lisa Cook to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve.

Dr. Brainard and Dr. Cook are highly qualified economists with decades of experience, having provided exemplary service to their profession and to this country.

Since 2014, Dr. Brainard has served as a Member of the Board of Governors to the Federal Reserve. She has helped oversee the Fed's important financial stability work. She has worked to create a better payment system that works for consumers and for small banks.

Prior to serving on the Fed, Dr. Brainard was Under Secretary for International Affairs at Treasury, where she played a critical role in helping support our country's recovery from the Wall Street-induced financial crisis in 2008.

She has a long history of bipartisan support and bipartisan work. She served in administrations of both parties. She was Deputy National Economic Adviser in the Clinton administration. She was a staff economist at the Council of Economic Advisers during the first George Bush administration.

And in between her public service to our country, she served as a professor of applied economics at one of the nation's great institutions, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Throughout this distinguished career, Dr. Brainard has been not just a good economist, but she has been a persistent advocate for working families and for communities who have been left on their own for too long.

She understands the role of government and the role of the Federal Reserve should be—it is not always successful in getting them there; I think these new nominees will do that—putting workers at the center of our economy and putting the workers at the center of our financial regulatory system, and putting workers at the center of what we do here.

She led the way at modernizing and strengthening the Community Reinvestment Act, a landmark civil rights law passed to begin undoing the legacy of redlining and lending discrimination, spurring investments in neighborhoods and communities. The CRA has fallen short many times, partly because of the last administration and the damage it did, but we are breathing new life into the CRA. Dr. Lael Brainard has done a good job in keeping it alive and setting the stage.

She led decisive, bipartisan action to use the Fed's emergency lending and monetary policy tools to support families through the COVID-19 crisis.

Like Dr. Brainard, Dr. Cook is a leading economist with years of research and international experience in monetary policy, banking, and financial crises. She knows that workers drive our

economic growth. She knows how important their local communities are.

Dr. Cook spent her formative years in the South, growing up in Milledgeville, GA. She spent a significant portion of her career in the industrial Midwest. She has seen how economic policy set here and economic policy set at the Federal Reserve affect all kinds of different people in different parts of the country.

She graduated from Spelman College, one of the great institutions in this country. She was a Marshall scholar and a Truman scholar. Whom do we know that are both of those things? And she chose both, very exclusive honors and academic disciplines. She studied at Oxford University. She earned a Ph.D. in economics, again, from one of our great institutions in this country, the University of California Berkeley.

She is a tenured professor of economics and international relations at one of the great institutions in my part of the country, Michigan State University. She taught at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. She served on the Council of Economic Advisers during the eurozone crisis and at the Department of Treasury.

Yet—yet—Mr. President, despite her extensive experience, despite her broad support, a small but really, really loud minority, far outside the mainstream, have engaged in a smear campaign against Dr. Cook. It is emblematic of the sorts of attacks that Black and Brown Americans, particularly women, have encountered for far too long here.

I won't go through what has happened in my committee. I chair the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. I won't lay out—for one thing, the Senators on my side of the aisle know it, and the Senators on their side of the aisle don't want to think about it—what has happened with very, very qualified, accomplished Black women coming out of my committee and how few Republicans have voted for them. Counting one after another, they get zero votes or 1 vote or 2 votes out of 12.

Women, and certainly Black women, know all too well what it is like to be called “inexperienced” when you are anything but. They know what it is like to be told that your qualifications are never enough, no matter how extensive they are, no matter how impressive they are.

These naysayers wrongly claim that Lisa Cook doesn't meet the standards for this position—standards that only seem to apply for certain nominees. Like the game of Whac-A-Mole, each time these assertions and allegations are rebutted—and each time they are effectively rebutted—a new, more untethered one arises.

She is unquestionably qualified. Dr. Lisa Cook is unquestionably qualified. If confirmed, she would be the first Black woman ever in the 100-plus year history of the Fed to serve on the Board. Think of that. In 1913, the Fed

started, and 109 years later, seven people—not one person on the Fed, not one Chair; seven people on the Fed, most times—but with seven spots on the Fed, she will be the first Black woman ever in 109 years. Think about that.

Dr. Cook and Dr. Brainard will be excellent additions to the Fed. We need them on the job now. As Americans face rising prices caused by corporate greed and the global pandemic and Putin's war, having a full Board has never been more vital than now. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting Dr. Lael Brainard and Dr. Lisa Cook—their nominations—so they can get to work for the American people.

I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22-03, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Argentina for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$73 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures:

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-03

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Argentina.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$0 million.

Other \$73 million.

Total \$73 million

Funding Source: National Funds

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: Follow-on sustainment and support of their T-6 Texan aircraft fleet, to include the following aircraft hardware and software modifications and support: major and minor modifications include airframe and avionics improvements for reliability and integration of training munitions and external fuel tanks; aircraft and engine support equipment, components, consumables, spare parts and repair/return; publications and technical documentation; heavy maintenance support; other U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistical support services, and related elements of program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (AR-D-QAY).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: AR-D-SAI.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: April 8, 2022.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Argentina—T-6 Aircraft Sustainment

The Government of Argentina has requested to buy follow-on sustainment and support of their T-6 Texan aircraft fleet, to include the following aircraft hardware and software modifications and support: major and minor modifications include airframe and avionics improvements for reliability and integration of training munitions and external fuel tanks; aircraft and engine support equipment, components, consumables, spare parts and repair/return; publications and technical documentation; heavy maintenance support; other U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistical support services, and related elements of program support. The estimated total cost is \$73 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a major Non-NATO ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in South America. It is in the U.S. national interest to assist Argentina in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

The proposed renewal of T-6 aircraft support will provide the Government of Argentina with the capability to meet current and future threats by revitalizing Argentina's trainer aircraft capabilities and to aid in the overall development of a professional pilot corps. Argentina is committed to modernizing its military and will have no difficulty absorbing the additional sustainment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Textron Aviation Defense, Wichita, KS. There are no

known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale may require the assignment of additional U.S. Government and/or U.S. contractor representatives to Argentina to support program and financial management reviews.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22-23, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$42 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-23

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Australia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$40 million.

Other \$2 million.

Total \$42 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

One hundred six (106) Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS JTRS) (5) Terminals.

Fifteen (15) Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS JTRS) (6) Terminals.

Seven (7) Multifunctional Information Distribution System MIDS-Low Volume Terminal (MIDS-LVT) (4) Block Upgrade Two (BU2) Retrofit Kits.

Non-MDE: Also included are Low Volume Terminal (LVT) Cryptographic Modules (LCM).

(iv) Military Department: Navy (AT-P-LGM).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: AT-P-LFT.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: April 19, 2022.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Australia—Defense Articles Related to Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio Systems

The Government of Australia has requested to buy one hundred six (106) Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS JTRS) (5) terminals; fifteen (15) MIDS JTRS (6) terminals; and seven (7) Multifunctional Information Distribution System MIDS-Low Volume Terminal (MIDS-LVT) (4) Block Upgrade Two (BU2) retrofit kits. Also included are Low Volume Terminal (LVT) Cryptographic Modules (LCM). The estimated total value is \$42 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. Australia is one of our most important allies in the Western Pacific. The strategic location of this political and economic power contributes significantly to ensuring peace and economic stability in the region. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist our ally in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

The proposed sale will improve Australia's capability to interoperate with U.S. forces and exchange secure, jam-resistant tactical data via Link 16. Australia will use the enhanced capability as a deterrent to regional threats and strengthen its homeland defense. Australia will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be Viasat, Carlsbad, CA; and Data Link Solutions, Cedar Rapids, IA. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of the proposed sale may require U.S. Government and contractor personnel to visit Australia on a temporary basis in conjunction with program technical oversight and support requirements, including program and technical reviews.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-23

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AN/USQ-140 Multifunctional Information Distribution System-Low Volume Terminal (MIDS-LVT) is a secure, jam-resistant communication and positioning system that employs a defined waveform in the 960-1215 megahertz (MHz) Ultra High Frequency (UHF) range for packet message communication and 16 Kilobit digital voice and packet message communication. MIDS provides interoperability with NATO and coalition users, significantly increasing force command and control (C2) effectiveness. The Tactical Digital Information Link-J